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WILLIAM A. MUNDELL CHAIRMAN JIM IRVIN COMMISSIONER MARC SPITZER COMMISSIONER

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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

2002 JUL 29 A 9:51

DATE:

JULY 29, 2002

AZ CORP COMMISSION DOCUMENT CONTROL

DOCKET NO:

T-03372A-97-0255

TO ALL PARTIES:

Enclosed please find the recommendation of Administrative Law Judge Philip Dion. The recommendation has been filed in the form of an Order on:

# INMARK, INC. dba PREFERRED BILLING (CC&N/RESELLER)

Pursuant to A.A.C. R14-3-110(B), you may file exceptions to the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge by filing an original and ten (10) copies of the exceptions with the Commission's Docket Control at the address listed below by **4:00 p.m.** on or before:

## **AUGUST 7, 2002**

The enclosed is <u>NOT</u> an order of the Commission, but a recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge to the Commissioners. Consideration of this matter has <u>tentatively</u> been scheduled for the Commission's Working Session and Open Meeting to be held on:

AUGUST 20, 2002 and AUGUST 21, 2002

For more information, you may contact Docket Control at (602)542-3477 or the Hearing Division at (602)542-4250.

Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

JUL 2 9 2002

DOCKETED BY

BRIAN C. McNEIL

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

#### 1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 2 WILLIAM A. MUNDELL 3 CHAIRMAN JIM IRVIN 4 COMMISSIONER MARC SPITZER 5 COMMISSIONER 6 DOCKET NO. T-03372A-97-0255 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF INMARK, INC. DBA PREFERRED BILLING FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE COMPETITIVE DECISION NO. RESOLD INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, EXCEPT LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES. **ORDER** 10 Open Meeting August 20 and 21, 2002 11 Phoenix, Arizona 12 BY THE COMMISSION: 13 Having considered the entire record herein and being fully advised in the premises, the 14 Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") finds, concludes, and orders that: 15 FINDINGS OF FACT 16 1. On March 16, 1997, Inmark, Inc. dba Preferred Billing ("Applicant" or "Inmark") 17 filed with the Commission an application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity 18 ("Certificate") to provide competitive resold interexchange telecommunications services, except local 19 exchange services, within the State of Arizona. 20 2. Applicant is a switchless reseller that purchases telecommunications services from a 21 variety of carriers for resale to its customers. 22 In Decision No. 58926 (December 22, 1994), the Commission found that resold 3. 23 telecommunications providers ("resellers") are public service corporations subject to the jurisdiction 24 of the Commission.

4. Inmark has authority to transact business in the State of Arizona.

5. On March 7, September 7 and September 19, 2001, Inmark filed Affidavits of Publication indicating compliance with the Commission's notice requirements.

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- 6. On February 25, 2002, the Commission's Utilities Division Staff ("Staff") filed a Staff Report in this matter recommending approval of the application subject to certain conditions, and making other recommendations.
- 7. In its Staff Report, Staff stated that based on information obtained from the Applicant, it has determined Inmark's fair value rate base is zero, and is too small to be useful in setting rates. Staff further stated that in general, rates for competitive services are not set according to rate of return regulation, but are heavily influenced by the market. Staff recommended that the Commission not set rates for Inmark based on the fair value of its rate base.
- 8. Staff believes that Inmark has no market power and that the reasonableness of its rates will be evaluated in a market with numerous competitors. In light of the competitive market in which the Applicant will be providing its services, Staff believes that the rates in Applicant's proposed tariffs for its competitive services will be just and reasonable, and recommends that the Commission approve them.
  - 9. Staff recommended approval of Inmark's application subject to the following:
    - (a) The Applicant should be ordered to comply with all Commission rules, orders, and other requirements relevant to the provision of intrastate telecommunications service;
    - (b) The Applicant should be ordered to maintain its accounts and records as required by the Commission;
    - (c) The Applicant should be ordered to file with the Commission all financial and other reports that the Commission may require, and in a form and at such times as the Commission may designate;
    - (d) The Applicant should be ordered to maintain on file with the Commission all current tariffs and rates, and any service standards that the Commission may require;
    - (e) The Applicant should be ordered to comply with the Commission's rules and modify its tariffs to conform to these rules if it is determined that there is a conflict between the Applicant's tariffs and the Commission's rules;
    - (f) The Applicant should be ordered to cooperate with Commission investigations of customer complaints;
    - (g) The Applicant should be ordered to participate in and contribute to a universal service fund, as required by the Commission;

- (h) The Applicant should be ordered to notify the Commission immediately upon changes to the Applicant's address or telephone number;
- (i) If at some future date, the Applicant wants to collect from its customers an advance, deposit or prepayment, it must file information with the Commission for Staff review. Upon receipt of such filing, Staff will review the information and forward its recommendation to the Commission;
- (j) The Applicant's interexchange service offerings should be classified as competitive pursuant to A.A.C. R14-2-1108;
- (k) The Applicant's maximum rates should be the maximum rates proposed by the Applicant in its proposed tariffs. The minimum rates for the Applicant's competitive services should be the Applicant's total service long run incremental costs of providing those services as set forth in A.A.C. R14-2-1109; and
- (1) In the event that the Applicant states only one rate in its proposed tariff for a competitive service, the rate stated should be the effective (actual) price to be charged for the service as well as the service's maximum rate.
- 10. Staff further recommended that Inmark's Certificate should be conditioned upon the Applicant filing conforming tariffs in accordance with this Decision within 365 days from the date of an Order in this matter, or 30 days prior to providing service, whichever comes first.
- 11. Inmark's proposed tariff indicates that it does not intend to collect advances, prepayments or deposits from its customers.
- 12. Inmark provided its unaudited financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2001. The financial statements list assets of \$62,266, equity of \$62,319 and a net income of \$433,398.
- 13. Staff recommended that if the Applicant fails to meet the timeframes outlined in Findings of Fact. No. 10, then Inmark's Certificate should become null and void without further Order of the Commission, and that no time extensions for compliance should be granted.
  - 14. The rates proposed by this filing are for competitive services.
  - 15. Staff's recommendations as set forth herein are reasonable.
  - 16. Inmark's fair value rate base is zero.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Applicant is a public service corporation within the meaning of Article XV of the

Arizona Constitution and A.R.S. §§ 40-281 and 40-282.

- 2. The Commission has jurisdiction over Applicant and the subject matter of the application.
  - 3. Notice of the application was given in accordance with the law.
- 4. Applicant's provision of resold interexchange telecommunications services is in the public interest.
- 5. Applicant is a fit and proper entity to receive a Certificate as conditioned herein for providing competitive resold interexchange telecommunications services in Arizona.
- 6. Staff's recommendations in Findings of Fact Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13 should be adopted.
- 7. Inmark's fair value rate base is not useful in determining just and reasonable rates for the competitive services it proposes to provide to Arizona customers.
- 8. Inmark's rates, as they appear in its proposed tariffs, are just and reasonable and should be approved.

## **ORDER**

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the application of Inmark, Inc. dba Preferred Billing for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for authority to provide competitive resold interexchange telecommunications services, except local exchange services, is hereby granted, conditioned upon its compliance with the conditions recommended by Staff as set forth in Findings of Fact No. 10 above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Staff's recommendations set forth in Findings of Fact Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13 above are hereby adopted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Inmark, Inc. dba Preferred Billing shall comply with the adopted Staff recommendations as set forth in Findings of Fact Nos. 9 and 10 above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Inmark, Inc. dba Preferred Billing fails to meet the timeframes outlined in Findings of Fact. No. 10 above, then the Certificate conditionally granted herein shall become null and void without further Order of the Commission.

DECISION NO.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Inmark, Inc. dba Preferred Billing shall not require its Arizona customers to pay advances, prepayments or deposits for any of its products or services. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Decision shall become effective immediately. BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION. **CHAIRMAN** COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, BRIAN C. McNEIL, Executive Secretary of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of , 2002. BRIAN C. McNEIL **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY** DISSENT PD:mlj 

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DECISION NO.